

Application No. 10/519,601 In Reply to USPTO
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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application No. 10/519,601 Confirmation No. 9486

Applicant MATHUS THEODORUS WILHELMUS VAN DE VEN

Filed September 16, 2005

Title GRIPPING MEANS FOR GRIPPING A SIGNAL LINE

Group Art Unit 2839

Examiner Chandrika Prasad

Customer No. 28289

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P. O. Box 1450 Alexandria,
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DECLARATION OF (Person Signing Declaration) UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.132
Sir:

I, R. Tielbeke, a managing Director of Lightspeed Inventions
in the above-identified application, hereby declare and state as follows:

1. I am a citizen of Holland, resident of Asten I have a degree in University of Zwolle I have over 5
years of experience in the field of sensors and, in particular, in gripping devices

adapted for gripping signal carrying lines. I have worked in the field of sensors since 5 years, including
the design, engineering, manufacturing and sales as Managing director of sensors and gripping devices
for gripping signal carrying lines. I am Managing Director of
Lightspeed Inventions, a sensor company.

2. I am familiar with the subject matter of the above-identified patent application, including the
amended claims. The present invention, as embodied by independent claim 19, is directed to a gripping
means for gripping on a signal line, which signal line is

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embodied such that the signal that is fed through the line is adapted to be influenced by loads exerted externally on the signal line, which gripping means comprise at least one rigid component adapted to grip on a sleeve of the signal line, wherein the gripping means also comprise a spring element engaging on the rigid component to exert a biasing force to the rigid component and away from the signal line to remove a load of the rigid component from the signal line, wherein the signal line is an optical cable wherein the spring element engaging on the at least one rigid component allows for displacement of the gripped cable by external forces and wherein the gripping means are adapted to distort a signal through the signal line when the signal is displaced by external forces, and wherein in an unloaded situation of the gripping means, the passage of a signal through the signal line is not impeded.

3. I have reviewed the cited reference United States Patent No. 4,976,157 to Berthold. Berthold is concerned with a fiber optic flow sensor situated in a conduit 12 which encloses two fiber optic cables 15, 16 held by a holding mechanism or tube 14. The fiber optic cables 15, 16 are axially aligned but separated by a gap 18. Fluid flow in the conduit, as depicted by 24 produces a deflection of tube 14 and the attenuation of light transmitted from one fiber to the other. This deflection is proportional to the flow rate allowing for the measurement of this flow rate.

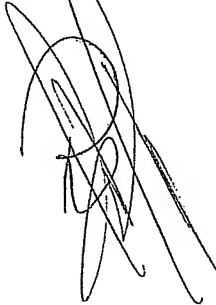
4. The Office Action refers to Figure 2 of Berthold as showing a gripping means for gripping a signal line 15 comprising at least one rigid component 26 adapted to grip a sleeve 14 of a signal line which is formed from a resilient material. Berthold differs from the present invention in that when a load is applied to tube 14 via fluid flow force in a perpendicular direction with respect to the tube 14, the tube 14 deflects, causing the line sensors to move and measure the flow rate 24 moving through conduit 12.

5. The device of Berthold is completely different than the present invention wherein the resilient member exerts a biasing force to the rigid member away from the signal line. Additionally, component "26" is not a "rigid component" as relied upon in the Office Action, but is actually an obstruction used to increase the cross-sectional area of tube 14 to increase the sensitivity and/or amount of deflection of the tube to aid in the measurement of the flow forces on the sensor holding mechanism (col. 3, line 42). Accordingly, the Berthold patents works in a completely different manner than the presently claimed invention.

6. The claimed gripping means for signal lines in the above-referenced application has enjoyed commercial success, with little to no advertising expense (e.g., less than euro 5.000,00). Up to the present, over of the claimed gripping means for signal lines have been sold to at least 25 different products to 15 different customers in the past (3) years. This represents over in sales.

7. The invention enjoys significant commercial success internationally, in technical areas demanding precise and reliable sensors. The inventors have developed a plethora of applications for the invention in cooperation with a number of partners in various technological areas, being renowned companies that typically are innovative leaders in their respective markets. The inventors have licensed the invention to their industrial partners, which is an indication the invention is perceived as a true improvement in the field of line sensor gripping means, which opens up new possibilities and improvements that were previously impossible. A list of companies and the applications the invention is applied in, is listed below in Table 1. Part of these applications is still in development; however, for indicated applications, actual products are being produced, sold and used worldwide.

26 June 2009

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a stylized, cursive 'R' followed by a series of loops and a long horizontal stroke.

R. TIELBEKE

PRODUCT MARKT COMBINATIE OVERZICHT (PMC'S)

Herewith an overview of the different Product Market Combinations that are under operation at this moment
The different Product Market Combinations are in different stages of development

Nr Security:		Partner
1	Roof detection 3 products	GPS perimeter systems
2	Fence detection Spancable	GPS perimeter systems
3	Surface detection 3 products	GPS perimeter systems
4	Ground detection Ground mats	GPS perimeter systems
Safety:		
5	Safety edge	Jokab Safety
6	Mats	Jokab Safety
7	Bumper	Jokab Safety
8	Stepsensor	Jokab Safety
More products will follow		
Overig:		
9	Automotive Kneel safety	Scania / van Hool
10	Health care Bed detection	TB Nederland / Völker AG
11	Health care Bed,- en chair detection	Eaton Holec Home Care
12	Elevators Kooidak mat (mat on top)	Wittur
13	Elevators Putmat (mat down)	Wittur
14	Elevators Mat with speedmaximiser	Wittur
15	Escalators Walking detection	Peritech (Otis, Kone, Schindler, Thyssen Group)
16	Escalators Kamplaat detection	Peritech (Otis, Kone, Schindler, Thyssen Group)
17	Escalators Bovenband detection	Peritech (Otis, Kone, Schindler, Thyssen Group)
18	Escalators Counting and Weighing	Peritech (Otis, Kone, Schindler, Thyssen Group)
19	Traffic Bicycle detection	City tec
20	Traffic Pedestrian detection	City tec
21	Traffic Tram detection	City tec
22	Traffic Entrance parking areas	City tec
23	Sport / leisure Dog detection wall	Doggy's Playground
24	Sport / leisure Dog detection table	Doggy's Playground
25	Sport / leisure Dog detection bridge	Doggy's Playground
26	Sport / leisure Dog detection wip	Doggy's Playground
27	Fire detection Roofing	Seclusive
28	Infrastructure Detection areas in roads	Dura Vermeer
Monitoring (moisture, temperature etc):		
29	Dike monitoring Warning system for to prevent dikes from collapsing	Dike Survey / TNO
30	Health care Intelligent matras	Völker AG
31	Intelligent road surface For predicting maintenance and replacement	Dura Vermeer / van Gelder

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R. TIEBEKE

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